



RESOLUTION 15- 01

A RESOLUTION OF THE AGDAAGUX TRIBE OF KING COVE OPPOSING THE NOMINATION OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLAND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove is a federally recognized tribe in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has opened a process to nominate potential national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, a collection of outside non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have nominated an area greater than the size of the State of Alaska to be potentially designated as 'Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary' (AINMS); and

WHEREAS, the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary nomination process clearly states that 'Every Nomination Starts at the Community Level'; and

WHEREAS, there is no local support from our local tribe for this nomination; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would negatively impact the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the potential designation of the AINMS would make all current restrictions to fishing and other commerce permanent, and would authorize further permanent restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the concerns identified in the proposal – overfishing, oil/gas development, invasive species and increased shipping – are already addressed:

- Fishing stocks are at record levels in this region due to good stewardship by local residents and management by the Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- Offshore oil/gas development has not occurred in this area for decades and is not feasible nor planned in the near future.
- Current EPA regulations already address potential invasive species issues.
- The Aleutian Island Risk Assessment project Optimal Response System will address increasing shipping risks; and,

WHEREAS, the local people who have been good stewards of this region for generations object to the audacity of those who propose to designate this vast area, our home, as a 'sanctuary', and,

WHEREAS, as part of our ongoing stewardship, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove has recently started a program "Local Monitoring of Ecologically Important Species in Three Aleutian Island Communities," in which the Agdaagux Tribe collects marine mammal and waterfowl data (including but not limited to : Stellar Sea Lions, Killer Whales, Northern Sea Otter's, Emperor Geese, Pacific Black Brant, and Stellar's Eiders) from local sentinels throughout the Aleutian Region, as well as data from our volunteer Aleutian Citizen Sentinels who are fishermen from throughout the region, and

WHEREAS, the Aleut people, including the tribal members of the Agdaagux Tribe, are greatly reliant on these waters for survival and have been for thousands of years, and

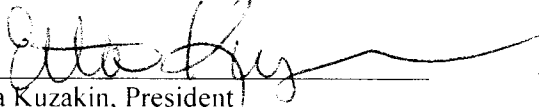
WHEREAS, the Aleut people take pride in being ecologically and environmentally responsible with our ocean's resources;

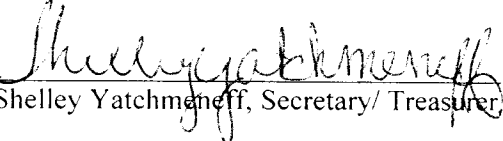
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove is OPPOSED to the nomination of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Alaska Legislature, and to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Agdaagux Tribe on this 2nd day of January, 2015.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Agdaagux Tribal Council by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, this 2nd day of January 2015.


Etta Kuzakin, President

ATTEST: 
Shelley Yatchmeneff, Secretary/ Treasurer